(c) The request for changes in the customs duty structure was examined but it was decided not to make any changes.

Non-acceptance of tied aid

1680. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had announced at G-8 Asian Summit that India will not accept any tied aid in future and simultaneously, it discontinued taking aid from all bilateral donors barring six countries; and

(b) if so, whether he had also declared that all outstanding debt due to all bilateral donors, except four countries will be paid back ahead of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in accordance with the Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget for 2003-04, the Government has decided to discontinue taking aid from all bilateral partners, other than Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, United States of America, Russian Federation and European Commission. India will not accept any tied aid in future. It is also proposed to prepay the outstanding bilateral debts, except outstandings to Japan, Germany, USA and France.

Meeting of CMDs of non-life insurance companies

1681. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had called a meeting of the CMDs of the four non-life insurance public sector companies and representatives of the unions in this sector on June 30, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the main purpose of the meeting and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was scheduled

for 30.6.2003 to discuss inter alia, the procedural matters relating to Check-off System to determine the representative strength of Unions/ Associations in the public sector general insurance companies. The meeting could not materialize due to office exigencies.

(b) Does not arise.

Call for Strike by All India Bank Employees' Association

1682. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Bank Employees' Association has declared their intention to go on indefinite strike from July this year against bulging non-performing assets of bank and the move for privatisation of banks;

(b) if so, the extent of accumulated non-performing assets of nationalised banks as on 1st July, 2003, bank-wise; and

(c) the details of the other demands of Bank employees and the steps taken to avert the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Indian Banks' Association has reported that they have not received any notice for strike.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Investments by Japan

1683. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is ready to do business with the Japanese;

(b) if so, whether for the last decade, Japan has not been able to make much investments in India;

(c) whether Prime Minister's recent visit to Japan has helped in improving the situation and more investments are coming from Japan to India;